

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /053 W

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R 040855 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2843

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T CAIRO 0998

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON MILITARY MOVES INCREASES IN CAIRO

1. SADAT' S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW AND HIS SUDDEN TRIP TO LIBYA ON MONDAY HAVE INCREASED SPECULATION IN CAIRO THAT GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT PLANNING MILITARY MOVE SOON. GOE OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPTING REINFORCE THIS IMPRESSION AND IS PUBLICIZING CIVIL DEFENSE EXERCISES AND BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN. LOCAL TALK HAS FOCUSED ON FACT THAT EGYPT HAS NO FACILITIES FOR CONVERTING BLOOD TO PLASMA AND THAT WHOLE BLOOD USEABLE FOR ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER DONATION. EDITORIALS IN PRESS DURING RECENT DAYS HAVE PLAYED UP THE MORE WARLIKE STATEMENTS IN SADAT' S NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW INCLUDING ALLEGATION THAT UNITED STATES IS IN FOR " RUDE SHOCK."

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2. IT IS PERHAPS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT LAST YEAR ON THE PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY SADAT MADE A PUBLIC PLEDGE THAT BY THE NEXT PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY EGYPTIANS WOULD CELEBRATE THE LIBERATION OF THEIR LAND AND THE DEFEAT OF " ISRAELI ARROGANCE AND MISBEHAVIOR." THE NEXT PROPHET' S BIRTHDAY FALLS ON APRIL 15.

3. WHILE GOE TRYING CREATE CREDIBLE THREAT OF IMMINENT HOSTILITIES, LIFE GOES ON IN CAIRO AS BEFORE WITHOUT NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN MOBILIZATION OF JINGOISM AMONG PUBLIC WHO HAVE BECOME SKEPTICAL OF SADAT' S PRONOUNCEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WE STILL INCLINED BELIEVE THAT SADAT REALIZES THAT INITIATION OF HOSTILITIES AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD TRIGGER MAJOR RIPOSTE WHICH WOULD THREATEN SADAT' S OWN POSITION AND DAMAGE EGYPT' S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME DANGER THAT SADAT MIGHT BE CARRIED ALONG BY HIS OWN RHETORIC AND FIND HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT COULD LEAD HIM TO DISASTER AS NASSER WAS IN 1967. SADAT IS IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF FRUSTRATION AND IS NO DOUBT CONCERNED OVER HIS INCREASING LACKMF CREDIBILITY. EMOTIONAL FACTORS MAY PLAY A LARGER AND LARGER ROLE IN HIS DECISION MAKING AND NO ONE CAN PREDICT THE RESULTS WITH CONFIDENCE.
GREENE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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